



# The Springfield Cambridge Record



*Christmas 2019*

**"Moved by the Spirit, Simeon went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God" *Luke 2: 27-28***

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## Letter from our Minister

In September of this year, office-bearers and members of the congregation attended a series of three meetings with our Parish

Grouping friends from Cadder and Kenmure Churches, led by Robbie Morrison, a Mission and Discipleship Facilitator. The purpose of these meetings was to look towards our common shared purposes and to create a vision for the future in Bishopbriggs given the Church of Scotland's desire for 'radical change.'

On the early morning of Friday 13<sup>th</sup> of September, after the second of these sessions, I was driving down Balmuildy Road towards Hilton Road. Directly in front of the car ahead of me was a young cyclist making his way towards Meadowburn Primary School. As a cyclist myself, I watched as he navigated his way down the hill towards a large white van which was parked half on the road, and half on the pavement just beyond Muirton Drive. At the same time a bus had just turned onto Balmuildy Road from Hilton Road. The car in front of me decided to overtake the cyclist which was a curious manoeuvre. I could almost hear the cyclist's mental cogs turning as internally he debated what to do next, with a bus approaching him on the opposite side, and a parked van in front of him on his side of the road. By this point I had reduced my own speed and with a sense of time slowing down and foreboding growing, I watched as he turned sharply to the left intending to mount the pavement and ride on the 'inside' of the parked van as it were.

Before it had happened, I knew what the outcome would be. Instead of addressing the curb at a straight angle he hit it side on and went crashing over the handlebars onto the pavement. Fortunately, his helmet protected his head, but his right elbow and his left knee and shin took quite a beating. All this occurred within seconds although the time sequence felt like an eternity. When it was safe to stop I did so, parked my car and walked back to see if I could help. Meanwhile the traffic continued on its rush hour commute and the world kept turning on its axis. I helped Daniel, a P7 pupil to his feet, righted his bike and had him sit down on a garden wall to draw his breath. Once I had checked his injuries, he got his phone out and phoned his mum, and I spoke to her to reassure her and offered to wait with him until she arrived. All the while, the traffic continued to journey on. But then things began to happen which reminded of the phrase, *'it takes a village to raise a child.'* The owner of the house on whose wall Daniel was sitting came out to offer his help, fetching a glass of water for the shock, while I wittered on trying to distract Daniel from his torn trousers and badly bleeding and grazed knee and shin. After a while another neighbour from down the street, sporting a pair of cycling shorts himself, came up to ask me if I needed to get to work, he would wait with the boy! Mum in due course arrived and took her son off to get him medically checked out. But what of Daniel's bike I hear you saying? From another house two doors down came a workman who asked mum what her address was, put Daniel's bike into the back of his van and said he'd drop it off that morning. That in a sense is where my story ends - for I trust and pray that Daniel is none the worse for his accident.

But it set me thinking. The night before we had been thinking all about the future with Robbie Morrison. And that is a good thing to do. But I was also struck by the fact that often the present is all we have. *'Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, and today is a gift - that is why it is called the present.'* Today, the present is all that we have. Tomorrow is yet to come and may well not shape up as we anticipate. So perhaps we need to reflect on how we are using the here and now.

I had been worrying about what would emerge from our Future Focus discussions - what did God want for our future? I don't know what that is, but I do know this. God is already at work in our community, in the people of Bishopbriggs who come out of their homes, workplaces, leisure and stop to help a boy on a bike in need. Yes, we need an eye to our future, but we must be careful not to lose sight of what God is doing in the here and now. In the words of the hymn, "God is working his purpose out", we are reminded of the words of the minor prophet, Habakkuk, who has a major word for us, **"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea."** (Habakkuk 2:14)

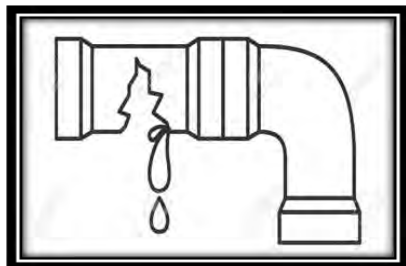
*Rev Ian Taylor*



## Fabric Appeal 2019 –

### *Flushed Away*

Accompanying this Edition of the Record is our current Fabric Appeal. Whilst addressing this unusual matter of drains, we are hopeful that you will give as you are able to support these necessary works. Your contribution can be returned via ▲ the labelled box or tray in the Hall of Fellowship. ▲ In the offertory plate. ▲ via your District Elder. ▲ by Post to the Church Treasurer.



## News from Kirk Session

- **FUTURE FOCUS**

The Kirk Session has engaged with the Future Focus process of which the Minister has already referred to in this Edition of our Magazine. Should anyone like to see the summary reports, please contact the Minister or the Session Clerk and they will provide you with an electronic or paper copy. The next step from this process will be the consideration of the materials by the 3 congregations and a follow up meeting with the Ministers and the Facilitator, Robbie Morrison. More details to follow in the New Year.

- **CHARITY POLICY**

As a congregation we are a registered charity. From time to time we are approached by individuals or other charities to run or support charity events in our Church buildings. Given the level of recent such activity it is felt that we probably should have some general guidelines or principles in terms of what we agree to. Under the Parish Ministries Act Ministers have the capacity to give their church buildings for ecclesiastical, charitable or educational purposes free of charge. After much discussion, with valued input from many, there was agreement that the following Policy be adopted and reviewed by the Kirk Session after one year:

### *Charity Policy of Springfield Cambridge Church (SCC)*

This Policy applies to all charity events where such events are not connected to the Church of Scotland and / or SCC. This Policy can only be overridden by agreement of the Kirk Session of Springfield Cambridge Church.

Charitable events to be held at the Church Building must be approved by the Minister of SCC in accordance with the Parish Ministries Act. At the sole discretion of the Minister the hire may be free of charge or at a sum determined by the Minister.

SCC will not support, or allow its buildings, Orders of Service, website or Face book pages, or Church magazine to be used for the purpose of supporting (selling tickets or advertising) an event for another charity.

The exception to this is where the charity event is sponsored by a member of SCC and the Minister agrees that the event may be advertised by notice in our Orders of Service, website or Face book pages and /or our Church magazine.

- **HALL OF FELLOWSHIP**

The Kirk Session is aware that at times our Hall of Fellowship can at times be quite crowded as people are welcomed and received into our buildings as they make their way into the Sanctuary for Worship. Sometimes that is because various ‘stands’ are in operation – perhaps with ticket sales for future church events, or sales of Christmas cards, or home baking. The Kirk Session is giving consideration to whether this is the most appropriate use of this space but is keen to hear from folk who use this space in that way, and from those who find it convenient for such ‘stands’ to be situated there. Should you wish to make a comment on this, to guide the thinking of the Kirk session, please speak to the Minister or the Session Clerk.

## • LONG SERVICE CERTIFICATES

A number of members of the Kirk Session were recently eligible to receive Long service Certificates for faithful service to the Kirk as listed below.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Date Ordained</b>	<b>Years' Service since ordained</b>
Mr James Stormont	09/12/1956	62
Mr Robert Ditty	01/12/1968	50
Mr William Findlay	30/03/1969	50
Mr Mervyn G. Porter	01/03/1970	49
Mr George McMillan	21/02/1971	48
Mr Michael B.D. Cooke	08/09/1974	44
Mr Andrew D. Fleming	20/03/1977	42
Mr Ronnie Williamson	29/04/1979	40
Mrs Anne M. Harvey	24/03/1985	34
Mr John Millar	24/03/1985	34
Mr William McSheehy	24/03/1985	34
Mr Charles Dorward	06/11/1988	30

On Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2019, those present to receive their Certificates are pictured opposite: Back Row (l to r) Jim Scott (Session Clerk), Robert Ditty, Mervyn Porter, Ronnie Williamson, Charles Dorward, Dr. Blakesley (Assistant Minister). Front Row (l to r) Rev. Ian Taylor (Moderator), Jim Stormont, Bill Findlay, Anne Harvey, Willie McSheehy



On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> of June, 2019, Drew Fleming received his Certificate.

(l to r) Jim Scott (Session Clerk), Drew Fleming, Rev Ian Taylor (Moderator)



## LOOKING BACK

### FUNERALS

*God of grace and peace, in your Son Jesus Christ, you have given us new birth into a living hope. Strengthen us now to live in the power of the resurrection and keep us united with our loved one from whom in death we are not divided. For you live and reign for ever and ever.*

*Amen.*

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2019**

**Miss Anne Sinclair, Graham Terrace**



During September and October, nine individuals attended our Communicants Classes, with 8 of them joining the Church on 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2019 and one on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November, 2019. To help you get to know our new members they are pictured below with a little information about each of them.

*Pictured opposite from 13<sup>th</sup> October:* back row (l to r) Dr Sonia Blakesley, Stuart Thomson, Debbie Thomson, Julie Dey, Julia Malloch, Rev Ian Taylor

- Hi, my name is Stuart, I was brought up in Bishopbriggs and belonged to the 268th Boys Brigade many years ago. I now live in Bearsden with my wife Debbie and our 2 children, Matilda and Hunter. I work as a community pharmacist and manage a store in Glasgow.
- Hi, I'm Debbie! I live in Bearsden with my husband Stuart and our two children, Matilda who is 3 and Hunter who is 6 months. I work as a hospital pharmacist and I am also studying part time at Strathclyde University to become a prescriber.



- Hello, my name is Julie, I am a mum of twin boys and wife to Gordon. I work as a Corporate Manager for a training provider called TIGERS, which are based in Huntershill Village and in Springburn. We help young people into the world of work by providing industry specific skills and helping them to develop their potential. I enjoy baking, spending time with my family and being involved in the community.
- My name is Julia Malloch. Born & raised in Bishopbriggs, at Springfield Cambridge from Sparklers through to Wayfinders and Girls Brigade. I am a complete home bird at heart, I live with my husband, Euan, just a couple of streets away from my parents! Euan and I were married in Italy on the Amalfi Coast in 2017 and are absolutely loving married life. I graduated from the University of Glasgow in 2008 and have been a Corporate Banker ever since (sorry!). With such a busy job I live for my holidays and love exploring new countries with Euan striving to appreciate how blessed we are to be able to do so and always seeking to “collect memories not things”. I enjoy keeping fit at the gym which is necessary given my other hobbies of cooking and baking!

Front row (l to r) Lorraine White, Beth Taylor, Leigh McMahon, Laura Harvey

- Hi, my name is Lorraine White. I have recently moved to the area and decided to join the church. I work as a nurse at the QUEH and when I'm not there I'm spending time with my husband Ewan and baby daughter Emily who will soon be turning one. I'm known for being quite creative and enjoy doing arts and crafts.
- Hi, I'm Beth Taylor and I am in my final year at High school, hoping to pursue a career in music.
- Hi, I am Leigh McMahon and I grew up in Springfield Cambridge Church. For a number of years, I was involved with the Sunday School. I am a primary school teacher currently teaching some lively Primary One children. I have been married to Nicky for nearly five years and we have a two-year-old daughter called Eilidh.
- My name is Laura Harvey. I'm married to Spyder (John) and we have a beautiful one-year old son, Presley. Both Presley and I were baptised in this Church earlier in the year. I'm originally from Fife but have now lived for more than half of my life in Glasgow. I'm a Support for Learning Teacher in Stirling.

*and pictured opposite from 3<sup>rd</sup> November.*

Gillian (Clark) is pictured centre (to the left of the Minister - accompanied by some of her classmates pictured on page 9!)

- Hi, my name is Gillian Clark and I am 37 years old. I am married and have two sons Harry and Jamie. I work as a primary teacher spending any free time with my family.



## Girls' Brigade

During our Dedication Service on **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> of October, 2019** of the Boys' and Girls' Brigade Companies, three Brigaders from the 65<sup>th</sup> Glasgow

Company of the Girls' Brigade received their Brigaders Brooches.

Pictured (l to r) are Tatum Mulholland, Kelsey Taylor, Kirsty Robertson, flanked by Katie Byrne (Company Captain) and Rev Ian Taylor (Company Chaplain)



## **Dr Sonia Blakesley – Doesn't time fly in the blink of an eye**



As you read this article, Sonia will have completed her fifteen months Probationary Period with us. It seems no time at all since she started with us in September, 2019. On her final Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> November, she was presented with gifts from the congregation to express our thanks for her ministry

among us. We hope it is not too long before we are preparing to travel to her Service of Ordination and Induction in the New Year!

As you will read above, our assistant Sonia has now left us to take the next step in her church journey. What some of you may not know is that there has been an informal support group in place (Carol Scott, Christine Faichney and Donald Armour) to help Sonia during her probationary period with us. We have met on a number of occasions not only providing feedback from our observations on a Sunday morning, often shaped by question and answer sheets provided by Sonia but also from what we heard in all sorts of places in the Church and the wider community.

We have been eyes and ears listening at coffee mornings, to folks who received home visits and also as you left church each Sunday and maybe even in the checkout queue at Asda or elsewhere! Some of you were good enough to compliment Sonia as you left Church others were more reticent and that is where we came in. Part of our role was to provide that conduit between the general congregation and Sonia. Our job has been made all the easier as the feedback has been positive with many of you telling us that Sonia will make a good, diligent and conscientious minister when she is called to her first charge.

It has been our pleasure to support Sonia and to help her develop with us and if our contribution has helped then the job has been worthwhile. We all wish Sonia good blessings as she takes a step into the unknown with the knowledge that while she has been with us our congregation she has grown in confidence by putting together learnings from all her previous placements and assessments as well as from Springfield Cambridge to equip her for her own ministry., The identity of which may well have been identified by the time you read this summary.

It has been our pleasure to aid Sonia in whatever small way we could and we wish her well for the future.

*Carol, Christine & Donald*

### ***And it's Goodbye from Me....***

Fifteen months have come and gone, and it is now time for me to take my leave from you. I have had a terrific time in Bishopbriggs as your Assistant Minister, and I would like to thank you all for welcoming me so enthusiastically into your lives and into your church family. Thank you for the help you have given me, and for involving me in the life of Springfield Cambridge Church.

Special thanks must go to my Support Group, who faithfully turned out on miserable winter evenings to offer me their opinions on how I was doing, and to share some congregational feedback; to the Wednesday morning crowd, especially those who shared my penchant for cheese and biscuits; and to my Elder's District who freely shared their life and faith stories.

Thanks too to those who welcomed me to their hospital bedsides, regardless of their state of dress, or undress, or bad hair day! It was a privilege to be alongside you during the low points. And I can honestly say, it was a real honour to be able accompany families in their times of bereavement and to play a part in paying a fitting farewell to their loved ones.

Particular thanks must go to Rev Ian Taylor. Ian, it has been a whistle-stop tour of ministry, with so much packed in. I have learnt so much, been encouraged and pushed and challenged in so many different ways. I could not have anticipated such an adventure. I have loved every minute of it, and I believe it has enabled me to develop as much as possible into the minister God wants me to be - although I know he hasn't finished with me yet. However, I do think it may be several years before I have read all the books you have recommended to me!

Thank you all for your kind words, and good wishes, and for the farewell gifts. I am sorry to say goodbye, I will miss you all, and yet at the same time I am looking forward to the adventure that lies ahead.

At the moment I don't know for certain where I will be called into ministry – but I will return in a future issue, to let you know where God has called me, and tell you a bit about my ministry there. I look forward to my Ordination and Induction, wherever and whenever it will be, and I extend a warm welcome to any of you who would like to come and share with me on that special day – I will be delighted to see you there.

*I wish God's blessing on you all,*

Your friend and assistant minister,      *Sonia*

Dr Sonia Blakesley

## THE JACKIE MURRAY MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

On behalf of all the Murray Family, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who faithfully participated in and attended the annual golf tournament to remember Jackie, over the last 11 years. In particular I would like to give special thanks to Ian Taylor, our minister, who suggested that this event be held in Jackie's memory, to Ronnie Williamson and Roy Stewart for their fabulous organisational skills over the years and to all the participants who made the event always so successful. Jackie would have been so proud and honoured.

Many thanks again.

*May Murray*

## Defibrillator



As you are no doubt aware, a Heart Defibrillator has been fitted externally at the side of the Church in the lane as a public emergency facility. This was gifted to the Church by the Childminders Group that meets in our halls. This equipment is registered with the Scottish Ambulance association. We hope that the equipment will not require to be used, but that in the event of an emergency it will provide a life-saving facility to people in our Parish.

*The donors have sent us this message:*

Patty and Pamela would like to thank everyone who came to the Pink Ladies night in Cadder Freestone in March that helped us to raise the money to supply the defibrillator and cabinet. Especially R&M plumbing, Auchinairn Road, Bishopbriggs.

We would also like to thank Springfield Cambridge Church for allowing the defibrillator to be placed outside the Church. Special thanks to all the Bishopbriggs Registered Childminders who help us out every year. *Patty and Pamela* Pink Ladies Night Xx

*[Editors Note: Not sure what a defibrillator looks like? Worry not – pictures will be included in the February issue of The Record – when a wee bit more editorial space will be available to permit inclusion]*

**Safety First** Speaking of things that keep us medically safe, those of you who regularly use our facilities may have observed that we have recently installed a CCTV system internally and externally on our premises.



This is to ensure that our premises, all our users and staff are safe when in and around the Church. This has been made possible by the generosity of one of our members who has enabled this to happen, and a few unexpected donations to cover the installation costs. Upon installation, our Church Officer was asked what he saw as the benefit of the new system. *"That's easy,"* Jim said, *"if I can't remember where I left Henry the Hoover, I just check the monitor and I can see where it is."* I think we call that the law of unintended consequences.



## LOOKING FORWARD

**Vestry Hour** Should anyone wish to see our Minister, Ian will be available on the 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> of **December 2019 from 10- 11 am**. Should you wish to see the Minister at another time, please contact Ian on ☎0141 772 1540 or ✉ [ITaylor@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:ITaylor@churchofscotland.org.uk) and another arrangement can be made.

## Mid-Week Services – Cambridge Chapel 11.10 am.

The Wednesday morning Service will be held in the Cambridge Chapel. The Cambridge Chapel will also be open Monday - Friday from 10 am - 12 noon for anyone who wishes to find a quiet place to read the Bible, pray or reflect during the course of the week.



On **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2019** NYCOS East Dunbartonshire Boys Choir returns for their annual winter concert in the Church.

Further details will be found in the Orders of Service, on our website and Face book. Pages.

There will be a Service at Callieburn Court on **8<sup>th</sup> December, 2019** and on **12<sup>th</sup> January, 2020** at **2.30 pm.**



On **Sunday evening, 8<sup>th</sup> December** East Dunbartonshire Schools Senior String Orchestra will hold their **Christmas Concert in the Church at 6.30-7.30pm.** This event is free, but donations may

be made on entry. Light festive refreshments will be served afterwards in the Cameron Hall. Further details will be found in the Orders of Service and on our website and Face book pages.

**Springfield Cambridge Festival Chorus** presents "A Christmas Moment" at **7.30pm on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2019** in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall.

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2019** - Sunday School party. Details to follow.



**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, the Sunday School and Bible Wayfinders join us for our Nativity Service at 11am**

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 - Christmas Eve - A Family Service** will be held at 6.30 pm. **Our Watch Night Service will begin at 11.30 pm** with Carol Singing from 11 pm. There will be a Retiring Collection in aid of the Lodging House Mission at these Services.



**On Christmas Day, Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 the Bishopbriggs Parish Grouping will hold a Joint Christmas Service at Kenmure Church. This 10.30 am., Service will be a Family Service** and will last for about half an hour. After this those who wish to remain may do so for a Service of Holy Communion, aimed principally at adults, although all are welcome to the Lord's Table.

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 (LAST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR)** Church service will be at the usual time of 11am.

The Sunday School and Bible Wayfinders will be serving rolls and sausage/bacon after Church on **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2020.**



**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2020** the Anchor Boys will host a Quiz Night in the Springfield Hall.



On **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2020** we will celebrate the **Sacrament of Holy Communion** at **11am and 3pm**. There will be Retiring Collection after each Service in aid of the Kirk Session Benevolent Fund.

### PLAYLIST FOR LIFE "CUPPA TIME"

It is being proven more and more that music helps people who have Dementia to connect with their family and friends.

On the third Tuesday of the month in Room 1 we have a Playlist for Life "Cuppa Time" between 10 am and 12 noon. Why not come along and join us to find out how making a personal playlist can be very helpful to both Dementia patients and their carers.

We have a song book listing songs from the 1920's up to 2000. Through asking some simple questions we can identify music which brings back memories and is meaningful to the individual and their family.

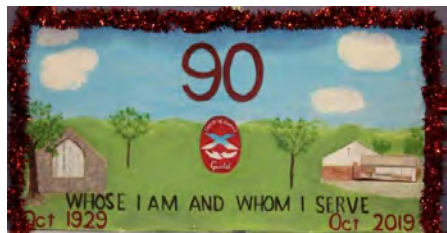
We also have information on events in the community being held for Dementia patients and their carers. Come and see for yourself what is available. We would be delighted to see you.

*Sandra McDougall, Ellen Robertson and Margaret Leeper*

### *Thank you*

We would like to thank members of the congregation for their good wishes and prayers over the last few weeks following John's heart surgery. We have been overwhelmed by the number of cards, letters, flowers & gifts we have received from everyone. We would also like to especially thank Ian and Sonia for their support to both of us during this time.

Thanks again, Irene & John Clinton xx



## The Guild

Yes, **it was** the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of Springfield Church Woman's Guild (later to become Springfield Cambridge Church Guild)! And what a lovely evening the Convener and

Committee organised for us all to celebrate this event. I wonder how many women have passed through our Church doors, to share in the worship, the fun and the fellowship, and the activities and service of the Guild over 90 years! And still going strong, I think! Of course, we had entertainment - wonderful songs from "our very own Euan Russell", and finished with tea and cake set in the Cameron Hall. Here you



see two of our ladies Elizabeth Allison and Jean Provan who have also reached this magic number of 90 years, cutting the Celebration Cake. We hope our Guild enjoys many more years of happy fellowship.

Another "marker" for us is that we now have a fully registered male member, who is enjoying the meetings - no wonder - one man among eighty women!



At the meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> October, we all enjoyed the presentation of three delightful young people, Beth Taylor, Nathan Williams and Kelsey Taylor who told us the tale of their adventures in Kenya. They carried out very hard work in poor conditions, and of course achieved their biggest challenge of all - climbing to the top of Mount Kenya. They met lots of Kenyan people, built a house, worked in the fields and so much more, as well as tolerating high altitudes and a hard-paced climb. How lovely it was to have these fresh and enthusiastic young people giving such an interesting account and presenting us with hope for the future.

On 4<sup>th</sup> November our guest speaker was Morag Reid who told us the life-story of Jane Haining who was killed by the Nazis at Auschwitz for her work among the

Jews, particularly Jewish children as she was the Matron in a Jewish Mission School in Budapest, Hungary. She has been honoured by the Jews who have named her as Righteous among the Nations in Jerusalem's famous Yad Vashem. She is also remembered in two beautiful stained-glass windows in Queen's Park Church where she worshipped while she stayed in Glasgow. Morag Reid is a member of that Church today, and told her story of quiet heroism so beautifully and movingly, concentrating on the love of Jane rather than the hate of the Nazis.

November, 18<sup>th</sup> A Journey to Nepal - John and Susan McGregor

December, 2<sup>nd</sup> BB Project

December, 16<sup>th</sup> Christmas Dinner



It is early to send our Christmas Greetings to all our readers, but this is the last chance we have as this is the Christmas Edition of the Record. We hope you have a very happy Festive Season, and may you know joy and peace this Christmas and in the coming year.

*Sheila Gibson*

### **268<sup>th</sup> Junior Section BB**

The Junior Section returned in September with 24 boys. So far, we have been to Mugdock Park for the District BBQ and had a visit to the Bishopbriggs Fire Station where boys got a chance to sit in the fire engine and try out the water hose!

We have just recently appointed our Leading Boys who are settling into their new role within their groups.

We've attended both our Dedication Service and the Remembrance Sunday Service where the boys made us very proud, especially Ryan as he did so well laying the wreath for us at both the Church and the Auchinairn Cenotaph.

We have a busy period ahead with a visit to Pro Bowl at Kirkintilloch for some 10-pin bowling, our Christmas party at the beginning of December then finally a visit to the Tron Theatre to see 'Cinderfella'!! The staff and boys of the Junior Section would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy new year!! *Gaynor Lockhart OIC*

## FUND RAISING GROUP

The decision was taken at the last Group meeting to allocate some of the funds raised at the recent City of Glasgow Wind Orchestra Concert, to purchase 2 large First Aid Kits for the Church. The total cost of this was £108.89 and the kits have since been mounted at appropriate places in the corridors by members of the Work Party.



It is hoped that in February/March next year we will be able to raise some funds from selling pots of Winter Flowering Bulbs. We have been ably aided in this venture by Robert Ditty who has given us much assistance. We look forward to seeing new life spring forth!

Our next event is the Annual Quiz and Fish Supper Night on Friday 20 March 2020. Tickets will be available at the end of February.

### *On the Front Cover – Unsung Heroes of the Nativity Story*

The first question is “are there any Unsung Heroes of the Nativity Story?” It’s such a well-known story – re-enacted year on year by Church Youth Groups the length and breadth of the country and thus – all the key participants are known. One could suggest that the donkey is a hero for carrying Mary. Except Luke does not mention a donkey – simply that Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem (Luke 2:4). One could suggest that the Innkeeper was a hero – for taking pity on Mary and offering the use of his stable. But again – Luke does not mention any Innkeeper – simply that there “was no room at the inn” (Luke 2:7). Was the Star a hero for guiding the Magi to the Christ child? It is doubtful if a “luminous ball of gas” could be considered a hero. But, as always with the Bible, if one looks closer you inevitably find persons in the background, carrying out God’s wishes. And for the Nativity Story one only has to look at an incident adjacent to the main story. The story of Simeon and Anna.

At the Temple, the family is approached by a man named Simeon, who has been told by the Holy Spirit that he will not die until he has seen the Messiah. (The same Spirit told him to go to the Temple that day, too.) Simeon takes the baby Jesus in his arms and praises God (Luke 2:21-35)

Anna then approaches the Holy Family. She too recognizes Jesus as the Messiah, but she has a very different reaction: "At that moment, she came and began to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem" (*Luke 2:36-38*). She is 84 years old, according to Luke, and she does not want to die. She wants to proselytize. Like the disciples who will follow her, she is driven to bear witness to what she has seen. Mary was the first to have the good news announced to her, but Anna is the first woman to fully understand and proclaim the good news.

So, what does this have to do with us in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Britain? We live in an increasingly secular and materialistic world and it is all too easy to forget the Baby at the centre of the Nativity. Like Simeon and Anna, we need to recognise the presence of the Messiah and publicly proclaim His gospel. Simeon and Anna are truly heroes for proclaiming the true message of the nativity.

